

THE CITY OF WICHITA



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

CITY HALL — THIRTEENTH FLOOR
455 NORTH MAIN STREET
WICHITA, KANSAS 67202
(316) 268-4351

January 19, 1981

The Honorable Mayor and
Board of City Commissioners
City of Wichita
Wichita, Kansas

Dear Commissioners:

This document contains the 1981 operating budget for the City of Wichita. The operating budget is in effect the administrative document containing policy decisions you made in August, 1980, after many days of hearings and deliberations.

The adopted budget continues the commitment of the City to apply maximum productivity and efficiency techniques and also furnishes essential services to support the needs of the people of Wichita. In summary, the adopted budget achieved these goals:

- Keeps the total spending increase below 10% (9.5%), considerably less than the 13.5% national inflation index
- Maintains essential services to a greater land area with 80 fewer positions
- Holds the mill levy below 40 mills (39.502) and requires \$1,700,000 less taxes than the maximum allowed under the State's tax lid law
- Transfers from public to private responsibility the Refuse Disposal and the Gas Utility operation
- Provides increased revenue from the Transient Guest Tax enabling the City to establish a planning and building fund for additional exhibit facilities to make Wichita more competitive in the convention and tourism business.

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The adopted program of service recognizes both commitments made in the 1970s and new tasks identified in last year's budget for the decade of the 80s. Specifically, 1970 commitments to fund Park Community Service Centers and maintain Branch Library operations are funded within this adopted program. In addition, Police protection is expanded with the addition of 20 Police Officers and Municipal Court service functions have been improved with the funding of two full-time Municipal Court Judges.

Recognizing the need to provide improved repair of streets damaged by severe winter weather conditions in the 1970s, \$400,000 has been provided for contracted repair work which continues the second year of the planned five-year "Pot Hole Repair" program.

The adopted program of service presented in this administrative document is financed through significant economies and reallocations from existing service programs. Administrators continue to investigate and develop new, increased productivity methods. It is also apparent that the decade of the 80s will challenge public officials to reduce the cost and size of government but still maintain essential services. In addition, it will be imperative that action be taken to improve intergovernmental cooperation; find a dynamic, equitable and feasible alternate revenue source; and, encourage factors that will preserve jobs and improve the environment for economic strength for the community.

To this end, administrators pledge continued support to the Task Force to Study Cost Effective Management which has as its primary objective to determine the feasibility of applying proven systems and management techniques identified within business and industry to areas of City government.

Respectfully submitted,



E. H. Denton
City Manager

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